



The Strange and Sad Disappearance of a Talented Newspaper Writer.

[Special Correspondence.]

St. Louis, Feb. 8.—The disappearance of Elizabeth A. Tompkins, a well-known newspaper writer of New York, although it occurred over three months ago, has not been explained. Mrs. Tompkins is the wife of Gwynn R. Tompkins, who several years ago was prominent as a newspaper writer on sporting topics, and who more recently has been identified with racing both in the east and west as the owner of several good horses, including Marchioness and the great steeple-chaser, Can Can. Mrs. Tompkins made a specialty in her newspaper work of matters pertaining to the turf, although her pen was also turned to any subject that gave scope for graphic and picturesque description.

Her most noticeable work was done summer before last, when in the interest of a syndicate of newspapers of New York, St. Louis and Chicago, she crossed the Atlantic and wrote up all the great racing stables of England. So brilliant were her descriptions, particularly of Newmarket and Derby day, that the conservative sporting prints of London reproduced them from the American papers, giving full credit to the accomplished author.

Although unaccompanied by her husband on his European trip, there was never the slightest suspicion on the part of the friends of either that anything but the most affectionate relations ex-



MRS. ELIZABETH A. TOMPKINS.

isted between them. Every mail brought long and loving letters from the wife to the husband, with tender messages for the little 2-year-old boy that the mother had left behind, and after return from Europe the reunited family was apparently as happy as it is possible for people to be.

Wherever her husband's racing interests took him, there she went, supplementing his earnings by the efforts of her pen. Last summer they were in Saratoga, and Elizabeth A. Tompkins' letters from the gay center were the best possible example of newspaper work.

In October last the husband and wife, with their handsome little boy, then just 4 years of age, went from New York to Washington and established themselves at the home of Mr. Tompkins' mother at 1907 K street. On the 10th of October Mrs. Tompkins expressed a desire to visit her own mother, Mrs. Amserald of this city. The consent of her husband was readily obtained, and, leaving him affectionately to care for his boy, started for St. Louis. A telegram to her husband a day or two later announced that she was going to make a flying trip to the World's fair.

Not hearing from her from Chicago and becoming fearful that she was ill, Mr. Tompkins went to Chicago. Inquiry of the residence of his and her friends failed to locate the missing woman, and after a week of constant search Mr. Tompkins was stricken with paralysis and carried to the hospital in a speechless condition. For several weeks he lingered between life and death, and when finally able to be told the news was informed that the only word that had been received from his family was a vague, crazily written note that had been delivered by mail at his mother's address in Washington bearing the date of Oct. 24 and postmarked Baltimore. This note merely announced that she felt death approaching and that her husband would never see her again.

From that day to this nothing has been heard of Elizabeth A. Tompkins. Her husband, only partially restored to health, has offered a reward of \$100 for information as to the whereabouts of his wife and little son.

WILLIAM CALDWELL.

Mrs. Bronson's guess, when she gives one of her famous entertainments in New York, dance in a gold and white ballroom and sing in a terra cotta dining room.

Princes Borbone, whose romantic marriage with Miss Monk created so much interest in England a year ago, has just been appointed to the chief command of the Norwegian navy.

J. B. Tyrell of the Dominion geological survey, to illustrate the vast numbers of wild animals in the barren grounds of the north, claims that he saw a veritable sea of reindeer. He estimates their number by the hundred thousand.

SELECTIONS

IN A HAUNTED ROOM.

A Singular Experience Which Shocked a Man's Belief in Ghosts.

"There is no such thing as ghosts," said a Chicago drummer. "I used to think that maybe spirits did return until about a year ago, when I was staying at a hotel in a small Iowa town. Then I was convinced that they are only apparitions. I registered one night about 9 o'clock and found the house crowded. In fact, the landlord, an honest old black number, said he couldn't give me a room at all unless he was perturbed to me, 'you ain't scared of ghosts.' I've only got one unoccupied room in the house," he continued, "and it's haunted. About a year ago one of my boarders committed suicide—cut his throat with a razor—and ever since then his ghost has appeared! Well, I had never seen a ghost—but often heard of them, but never believed they existed. So I took the room right gladly and remained at once."

"Although I was worn out, I couldn't go to sleep for thinking 'not of the ghost, but of the man who had committed suicide.' Who was he? Why did he do it? Was he in love? Lost money? And a hundred questions continued to march through my mind, despite my efforts to sleep. The more I thought of the case, the more intense my thoughts became. I became nervous and began tossing around the bed, all the time thinking of the unfortunate man who had committed suicide. It was growing late. Not a sound could be heard. Every one was in bed asleep. Finally I began to think of the ghost. I began to wonder what he looked like; what his proportions were and how he looked, when the ghost appeared.

I saw him as plainly as I see you. He seemed to rise from the floor just at the foot of the bed. He stood, both hands resting on the footboard, staring at me with such an awful intensity that I quaked. Big beads of cold, clammy perspiration came out all over my body. Yet I was hot and thought I would burst open. I wanted to run, but could not move a muscle. After staring at me intensely for about five minutes, I suppose, as if I were the cause of all my troubles, the ghost walked to the washstand, which was a few feet to the right of the bed. He stooped and pulled open a drawer and took out something which I could not see. Then he closed the drawer softly, as if fearing some one would hear him.

He then unbuttoned the collar band of his nightshirt and rubbed his hand around his neck as though feeling for something. Next he raised the other hand, and for the first time I saw a razor, which he had taken from the drawer. Again he rubbed his left hand around his throat and started to put the razor to his neck, but he pulled it back and continued to rub his throat. He did this nearly 10 minutes, I think, when suddenly the other hand was brought up and the iron edge of the razor sank into his throat. He dropped—it beat the fall—and that was the last I saw of the ghost. No, I was awake at the time. I didn't go to sleep that night at all. But then it was no ghost; it was only an apparition, the child of my own excited nerves, for I looked for the razor, and there was none there, and it could not have dropped through the floor. No, sir; when a man tells me he has seen ghosts, I tell him he needs some liver regulator.—*Fort Worth Gazette.*

Appearance of Reunion latent.

A paper on the French possession of Réunion, formerly Bourbon Island, has been sent in to Lord Rosseby by General Bennett. This island is about 80 miles to the southwest of the British colony of Mauritius. It has an active volcano all to itself, besides several extinct ones, and General Bennett himself says their study is neglected by scientific men. The island is elliptic in form. "Suppose," says Mr. Bennett, "that the ellipse represents the rim part of a silk hat, the crown of which has been smashed and battered, leaving a large number of peaks and valleys in its place, perhaps no more apt simile of the general appearance of Réunion can be formed. The rim part will represent the space over which the lava, coming down from the now extinct volcano, has flattened out and in the course of ages been covered over with a rich, fruitful soil, on which Réunion depends for its wealth, which is purely agricultural and mainly the product of the sugar cane."—London News.

An Editor's Strange Experience.

Of the curiosities in Christmas cards last year the cake should be awarded to one addressed to the editor of the Glasgow Herald and bearing from the east coast. The envelope was duly registered and when opened was found to contain a crisp £5 note. The note was accompanied by a letter indicating that something which had appeared in the columns of The Herald had given the writer great comfort, and he inclosed the note as an evidence of his gratitude. The gentleman who opened the letter states that in a newspaper commercial experience of 50 years he never met with a similar instance of a reader's appreciation, and thinks that the incident is a distinct improvement on the kind of remunerative half brick that is usually bestowed on an editor. The money has been returned to the sender on the ground that the editor does not receive such "contributions."—Glasgow Times.

Where Kissing Is No Crime.

According to the law of Holland a man cannot be punished for kissing a strange lady in the streets against her wish. The appeal court at Amsterdam has decided that "to kiss a person cannot be an offense, as it is in the nature of a warm mark of sympathy."—Paris Herald.



NOT THE RIGHT MAN.

MATRIMONIAL AGENT.—I've got a gentleman who will make you a splendid husband. He is of an amiable disposition, well educated and very handsome. Here is his card.

LADY (looking at address)—You are a fraud of the first water. That's my divorced husband.—Texas Siftings.

SEVEN ROOM COTTAGE.

Designed For Erection on a City Lot—Can Be Built For \$1,800.
[Copyright, 1894, by American Press Association.]

In building small and inexpensive houses simplicity in the arrangement of the rooms and in the exterior appearance must be the guide. High ornaments and details are of necessity prohibited and would really be out of place if used. A good designer must possess the faculty of being able to conceive the proper thing and to put it in its appropriate place. This qualification may easily be termed "common sense." Architects are prone to use too much ornament, while a builder's designs usually exhibit a lack of proportion and a barrenness of de-

sign. It has all the modern improvements in the way of plumbing, gas lighting and electric bells. All outside woodwork is of white pine, painted in two shades of brown, with moldings picked out in black. This house is very cozy and attractive and would make a comfortable home for a person in moderate circumstances. It costs \$1,800 to build. D. W. Kite.

New Shapes in Mirrors.

Quaint and odd shapes are very popular for mirrors this season. The comes, with its wealth of rich ornament, is the prevailing style. One of the newest shapes shown is a double mirror, symmetrical with respect to a vertical center line in which each shape is a facsimile of the opposite, joined with the mirror-neck like an open jointed arm. On either side is a mounted arm with three candlesticks. The entire design is richly wrought with floral patterns, while the candle-holders are of birds of roses. The finish is gold, the prominent lines being polished, while the remainder is dull.—Architectural Monthly.

Influence of Architecture on Home Life.

It is pleasant to go into a hall facing the light. There is nothing but domesticity in a dark hall. Where one goes into a long passage that is dark at one end, the effect is depressing. This is against all home idea. One should expect to meet exactly the other conditions—brightness, cheeriness and all that is associated with the higher home idea. This feature of the home is architectual and has to do with the arrangement of the house. While it is true that the congenial spirit will make a home in any place, it is also true that the home may more readily be rendered cheerful and with less strain on the individual where the architectual features are of the better type.

CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT.

1806—Diet of Ratisbon. Many German princes seceded from the empire and joined the party of Napoleon.

1807—British parliament passed acts abolishing the slave trade.

1809—Representative congressional government established in Sweden and members of congress elected.

1810—Chili declared independence of Spain and a congress elected.

1812—Cortes of Spain reestablished on a new and democratic basis.

1814—The French senate replaced by the chamber of peers.

1814—Liberation union of Sweden and Norway accomplished; the latter declared a free and independent state, united to Sweden.

1815—The first diet of the Germanic confederation held at Frankfurt.

1816—The second Bank of the United States chartered by congress, with capital of \$35,000,000.

1820—A constitutional junta established in Portugal; members elected.

1821—Peru declared independent and national congress elected.

1821—The Missouri compromise adopted by congress and Missouri admitted the same year.

1821—The Central American states of Guatemala, San Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica separated from Spain and established representative forms of constitutional government. In 1839 they separated from the Mexican confederation and adopted their own constitutions, providing for representative bodies.

1823—Grand national congress of Greece assembled at Argos.

1824—Federal constitution established in Mexico; first meeting of the federal congress.

1824—Constitutional representative government established in Brazil and a parliament elected.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

1826—The first diet of the Germanic confederation held at Frankfort.

1827—The second Bank of the United States chartered by congress, with capital of \$35,000,000.

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